OBREGON JUST MISSED BEING MEXICO'S SECOND STRONG MAN

can husiness man, and not one man city of Vera Cruz.

Obregon was at the time also sets-

and to the quick spoken, vehement | Orizaba.

Mexico after an absence of three of that fik) for the Mexican."

I remembered this same Obregon member distinctly intercepting the later.

The clergy of Mexico, I understand, are not at all rich, statements to the conferry notwithstanding. With all the words in the world the hatred, the will in the world they could not the more earnest because suppressed, raise so much among themselves. They which the people of Mexico felt at the told Gen. Obregon that it couldn't be time toward the Sonora General, And done. even though he must have known of By this time we knew that Alvaro audacity to gemand. It left the city this bitter feeling toward him Obre-

of Mexico.

The "simpaticos" Zapatistas, as the people of the metropolis named them

from the small square sign in the

household is organized to help drive

heath and make him sorry he ever

hing that is worth joining or everything she can get to and back

new association, of which she will be

"It is a perfectly corking idea," she

"It strikes me that the butchers are

They are able in arithmetic," she

have never been able to put any-

thing over on a butcher yet," said I

I even tried to slip one of them

as he was closing his shop, but I

In mathematics the butchers are

mmense," replied Agnes, "and our new

lety will not attempt to educate hem along that line, but they can't

have struck five butchers in

Blindness of Butchers.

You wouldn't be if you did the

otted an item in the paper to the

set a price on poultry. The paper said wholesalers and retailers had

steed to it. I went to buy a chicken

cents a pound more than the

Look here, my man, I said, 'An

from our butcher and he charged me

agreement has been reached. It was

innounced in the morning paper.

'No, madam, I did not,' he replied

You don't take any paper?'

"No, madam. It would be of no use. I can't read. My wife, she can read

But you can't keep up with the

Perhaps it is just as well, he re-

"I am amazed." I declared.

as perhaps no other class of trades-

men, but they are slightly below nor

pre ly wise as it is," I said.

him a hot rivet."

agreement price.

I don't take the paper.'

A MEDIUM sized, stockily built man of somewhat swarthy complexion meekly followed in the train of the head waiter of a Broadway hotel. He was clothed in the conventional garb of the Ameritic properties and not one man of the same of the same with the conventional garb of the Ameritics to the city of Orizaba. If he were with Carranza then why did he not ship the loot to Vera Cruz, where the conventional garb of the Ameritics? Orizaba is just half way to the city of Vera Cruz.

second giance were it not his men were taking the horses, the erhaps for an empty right sleeve. miserable, ill treated coach horses, out of the public coches which they for the empty sleeve. The encountered on the streets. He also was Gen. A'varo Obregon, the emptied some churches and the well real "primer jefe" of Mexico not so equipped convent of Santa Brigida. I sat at a nearby table and, fasci- warehouses and the railroad station nated, watched his every movement.
I noted the quick smile, the changing those of Vera Cruz. Even the presihe waiter his order, truculent almost, Mexican dictator, was sent to repose brimming with laughter as he within sight of the eternal snows of

Then one morning the city awakand as I watched him memories ened to find a new decree. By that came crawding thick and fast about time we were becoming case hardened; I forgot the chatter and laugh- the only law in force was the law of or of the diners, forgot the blaze of the decree Foreigners knew one ghts, the artificial palms, the tinkle other, Article 33 of the Constitution. of ice in the water glasses. The glare which provides for the expulsion of and tour of Broadway, the clangor of undesirable gringos. They used to say the surface cars vanished, and as the in Mexico-"Juan Peindo" is good at muffed roar of the subway dynamite improvising catch phrases—that there annunced that another chunk of were only two articles of the Consti-Manhattan was being binsted out I outlon left by the revolution: "33 for was back once more in the city of the foreigner and 30-30 (after the rifle

Clergy Held for Ransom.

The new decree ordered the clergy walls, churches and street corners were seated one night in a neighboring box of the city to pay at once a special war in the Teatro Colon watching the ex- tax of 2,000,000 pesos. This money quisitely rhythmic dancing of the they were to raise among themselves.

gen, with his coolly insolent insou- chieftain who took no for an answer,

admirable mark for the bullet of an assassin.

Obregon's Ambitions.

About the time that Villa broke with Carranza, in the autumn of 1914. Obregon made his famous march diagnally across the republic of Mexico, from Sonora to the city of the Valley or less two failed to attend would be constructed in the sum of the city of the Valley or less two failed to attend would be constructed in the sum of the city of the Valley or less two failed to attend would be constructed in the sum of the city of the Valley or less two failed to attend would be constructed in the sum of the city of the valley or less two failed to attend would be constructed in the sum of the city of the valley or less two failed to attend would be constructed in the city of the valley or less two failed to attend would be constructed in the city of the city of the city was not long in coming. An order these meetings. The upshot was that every one was to stand pat and refuse to pay.

One diplomat reported to his Government at the time that "it was pointed to his down the city was pointed to his force or ank or faith, were to appear before the chief at the National Palace at 11 at the citry of the city, without distinction as to race or to pay.

One diplomat reported to his Government at the time that "it was pointed to his down the complex to pay."

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It was not long in coming. An order the city was issued that all the clergy of the every one was to stand pat and refuse to pay.

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One diplomat reported to his Government at the time that "it was pointed to pay."



THE HOTEL ST. FRANCIS,
GENERAL OBREGONS HEADQUARTERS DURING HIS OCCUPATIONS
OF MEXICO CITY, (THE AMERICAN FLAG)
DID NOT THEN FLY FROM THE STANDARD
ABOVE.)

money and the churches were closed Gen. Obregon demonstrated conclusively that he was a strong man.

Then after a week or so came the plastered throughout the city with a new decree. A special war tax was to then famous, perhaps still famous. Charitable individuals were not allowed the ratable valuation. Any one refus-fipanish ballarina La Conesa, I re-

any revolutionary leader had had the

When the merchants and business canco, his deep seated contempt for the "civilians of a perfidious metropolis," sat alone in a box of the Colon
Theatre, the cynosure of all eyes, an admirable mark for the bullet of an It was not long in coming. An order these meetings. The upshot was that

priest who falled to attend would be quently law abiding foreigners if they dealt with summarily.

Nearly two hundred priests attended punctually: they dared not refuse. Obregon locked the great doors and no right to take such action.

paid this 'loan' would in reality be taking sides with one political faction man when that leader's enemies took ried before the blank wall and the another decree, handed over inventoring the city later on. He either fied with firing squad.

One of the most charming, cultured sity which they had on hand and were the control of the control of the most charming, cultured sity which they had on hand and were the control of the most charming, cultured sity which they had on hand and were the control of the control of the most charming, cultured sity which they had on hand and were the control of the most charming, cultured sity which they had on hand and were the control of the con

There can be little doubt that at the time he had ambitions to oust his points throughout the city and great cente (better classes) were in hiding the time, and the granter part of circumstantial evidence to support the popular belief to this effect. For one thing he was shipping all the jewelry holes. The priests refused to pay the

GEN. CARRANZA AND HIS STAFF IN THE FIELD. THE FIRST CHIEF IS AT THE EXTREME RIGHT OF THE PICTURE.

as soon as they found from practical intercourse that the men of Morelos were not as but as they were painted, promptly evacuated the capital as soon as Obregon with his 40,000 Yaqui Indians knocked at its gate. He was enly in possession a few days before we learned that he was a "doggone was a "doggone man."

There can be little doubt that at spatrols were posted at strategic intercourse that the men of Morelos intercourse that the men of Morelos were pointed, intercourse that the men of Morelos were pointed the great doors and no right to take such action.

It was the first instance in the his-hiding army or went into hiding.

It was the first instance in the his-hiding army or went into hiding are successively which they had on hand and were the vacuating army or went into hiding are army or went into hiding army or went into hiding army or went into hiding are army or went int Obregen Defied.

Gen. Obregon's answer to the dement to the lower classes to sack the have been a famine among the came out one morning in March, 1915, far greater than it was. with flaring headlines across t e top

on my mind. Nothing happened. Foreign volunteers guarded the legations, the principal stores had armed guards behind were protected by bands of well armed Japanese. Foreigners flung out their respective flags. Consuls sealed, with the official seals of their countries, the doors of all places of business owned by foreigners. The seals on the American doors bore the stamp of the The doctor has just left. He has Brazilian Legation. All business was given me \$2 worth of information to absolutely suspended and the streets

> Dave passed and nothing happen The strain began to tell on our nervos.

Then came the new decree! All the Mexican merchants of the

foodstuffs, with great difficulty owing to the grafting opposition of certain lesser military leaders and the uncerfiance of the civilians was an incite- tain rail communications, there would city. The official Government paper and the loss of life would have been

About 300 merchants, or representa-

Gen. Obregon entered a box surrounded by a glittering staff. He was in full uniform, resplendent with gold. like that of an avenging demon. He conquering Gen. Villa, who was

some straight facts. "You citizens of this perfidious metropolis thought to laugh at Obregon and his decrees, did you?" he said. "Well, I am here to tell you that (hurlarse). I am Gen Alvaro Chregon of Sonors, gentlemen. Before I am through with my punishment of this perfidious city you will all know me. Every man of you is a prisoner until you obey my decree and pay this tax. machine guns command every exit.

The hatred against the Constitution

Failure of Sonora General Mainly Due to Contempt of Southern Peoples and His Unquenchable Demand for Loot-Need for Law and Order Greater Than Ever tax, were ordered to eppear on a certain morning at the Hidaigo Theatre there was no popular uprising: the of ruler the unlettered Mexican Indian "to discuss with me the best means of relieving the necessities of the poor," oughfares were an effective preven-

relieving the necessities of the poor." oughtares were an effective preven-The order was signed "Alvaro Obre-

kinds were made to Obregon. The Heaven knows there was need of relief at the time, as the food situation Diplomatic Corps prowas desperate. But it is an interest-oners were set free. Diplomatic Corps protested. The pris-

ing commentary that of the lesser forced loans which he had collected at reign, and before many days had passed the Obregonistas were evacuvarious times since his occupation of the city, not one centavo had gone ating the capital before the approachto relieve the poor. Furthermore it ing menace of isolation between the is not without interest to know that forces of the Zapatistas, who nearly when the grocerymen, in obedience to surrounded the city, and the then all

The order was signed "Alvaro Obregon insisted all along that he only needed the money "to relieve the misery of the poor."

The order was signed "Alvaro Obregon insisted all along that he only needed the money "to relieve the misery of the poor."

Oughfares were an effective preventive.

The merchants were marched in lacked the deep knowledge of his people which helped the famous dictator, barracks and locked up. Their friends to keep his country peaceful for the were frantic. Representations of all longest consecutive period in her heads to the poor." tory-thirty years.

Perhaps his failure might be any plained, psychologically speaking, by the fabled superiority of the north-erner over the southerner; the northern warrior antegonizing by a too out spoken contempt the peaceful, seems

ringed valleys of the south.

The final page of the revolution is yet to be written. Who knows but Obregon may yet be afforded an appropriately of proving himself the sector ond Diaz? One wonders if the name of Carranza will occupy a position of prominence in the final chapter.

I was speaking to a British Consul-recently who has just come out of one of the southern States of Mexico. He says that conditions in southern Mexico are appulling.

There is no law and little order.
Bandits ply their lucrative calling throughout the States of Chiapus, Tabasco, Caraos, the Isthmus. He owne unable to speak with certainty of con-ditions around Mexico city and in the north. Hardly a week passes that some train is not blown up or the railed with the accompanying masse-cre or robbery of the passengers.

There is no more respect for the person and property of the forestiller than of the Mexican. The Carratte Government seems unable to do anything toward putting a stop to the anarchy, and conditions grow steadily worse as the weeks pass.

The large cities are held by Government troops, but bands of rebels " varying sizes audaciously operaterin the intervening country, almost up to

ernment is the world war."



farewell.

Exit Was Dramatio.

an unusual commotion outside. My man." house was on the Puente de Alvardo, the leading thoroughfare out of the will produce the man. It was thought watched a seemingly unending train of cavalry, infantry and artillery passing: country the blessings of peace: then wagons; stolen automobiles containing cisco Villa: Felix Dian tried to win the Generals and officers, with their by the magic of a name; who will be bables on their backs; hoarse orders

In the middle of the parade marched about twenty of the leading cieries of and the national stock taking is on the city, who were being carried off the great Powers will have a word to for ransom. They were on foot, their may regarding the advantage which trast to the multicolored blankets ill treat and rob the foreign guests looked like beaten, terrified men in the ghastly white light of the flickering Mexico and little of what is going on

I remembered it all with startling distinctness as I sat sipping my after tinner coffee. Across from me. a few dining room.

its duty the chances are you will not President Carranza, and present con- she had just shaken out of a carpet his old prosaic mode of living?

first ordered all foreigners to leave the ing quickly southward.

building. Then he turned on the Mexi
The last I saw of Obregon and his abroad. As soon as the war is over their iron shutters. Most of the banks can business men and he told them men was at midnight of the day of the arms will be available almost for the general evacuation. It was a dramatic asking and there is every reason to farewell. up greater than ever, and Carranzo will surely go under. Mexico to-day I was awakened from sound sleep by more than ever before wants a strong

It remains to be seen if the hour

If Mexico cannot bring forth a son present job he has on hand is finished. ing, but after the great war is over

There is a rigid press censorship to within her borders is permitted to-appear in the daily press. The condition of affairs there might be compared to that of the careless servant web. sweeps the dust under the bed; the room, from a casual examination, to accumulate and must be cleaned up some day. Will Mexico herself clean house or

will she hire outside help?

THE DUST IN THE SWEEPER

NLY last week I found Mary's earring here," smit feet away, sat Obregon, now a mere to a younger woman as yet quite finexperienced in housekeeping ways who had wondered why the speaker should what he, in his inmost soul, thinks of look over the accumulated dust that ditions in his country. Can it be that sweeper; the Mary referred to being

"Mary came to me," the speaker once drunk deep of the intoxicating of her earrings and she had looked cup of unlimited power, can a man of everywhere for it, but just simply the Obregon temperament contentedly couldn't find it; but I knew the likelireturn to the "settled low content" of est place to look for it, and there I did find it, in the dust of the carpet sweeper, where many a jewel has been found before this, and where, no doubt Gen. Obregon made one fundamental many a jewel has been lost. I always mistake when he ruled in Mexico-he look over the dust out of a carpe

in his despotism. There is little doubt enced young woman registered a men-

OVER THE TOP WITH HOOVER HAS ITS WOES The property of the first page: "I will leave the city at the head of the first page: "I will leave the city at the head of the merchants, or representative of the first page: "I will leave the city at the head of my troops sooner than order one shot to be fired against the hungry multitude should they rise up and the property of revolutionary Mexico followed. "About 300 merchants, or representative of the first page: "I will leave the city at the head order one shot to be fired against the hungry multitude should they rise up and followed. "About 300 merchants, or representative of the first page: "I will leave the city at the head order one shot to be fired against the hungry multitude should they rise up and followed. and I decided to go over the

top with Herbert Hoover we

front parlor window to the pledge card hanging over the kitchen sink our I discovered a vegetable man the other day who had never heard of the horrendous Hun back to his native

"Instead of sending missionaries aft it. And we are determined to fight gan to educate our people at home," So long as we eat most of our meals it, too. We are going to establish night lumps of sugar can you get along schools and first of all teach those with?" We are not satisfied merely to fol-w. We also seek to lead, or Agnes schools and first of all teach those poor men how to read. After that all does at least. She has joined everywill be easy. Our members will teach that will not cost much money." same day in the subway. Now she is

When I left this morning Agnes was everishly engaged in organizing a busy on the telephone organizing the new movement, and when I return resident. She told me about it this this evening the Society for the Education of Butchers had been duly formed and the members were just aid. "The name of the organization is the Society for the Education of leaving my apartment for home full of

to be sent to each of the butchers in all the expense there will be. The by Indians. We will start with A B C blocks. Isn't

The best thing in such a crisis is an vasive answer. "I wish you luck," I said.

and a half steak. I can't see for the life of me why any butcher need learn how to read.

we were to have the Crebbenses at dinner. We owed them the dinner, according to my wife's bookkeeping, and took eight, the one I needed for the into t

"But why did you wait until now?"
I had asked the wife. "We could have saved \$8 on this thing if we had had

"Well, it doesn't matter," she had "We must have them now. replied. If we don't repay them for that dinner her will never invite us again."

said "until after the war. It isn't being done in the best circles any more.' But Agnes said she never would feel right until we had them, and I want gnes to feel right. I am much haper when she feels that way.

"Anyhow they are both light eaters," "We have never seen them eat any-

repiled. "People are always light those seven extra lumps of sugar? Well, anyhow, this was to be the I found my wife in a state of deep

aditation when I arrived at half past 5, seven would be better. "Now, wouldn't that get you? The The Crebbenges were to arrive at 6

Hunt Two Small Incidents signed for the duration of the war. seem to know when prices go up. I isn't a bit of sugar on Long Island." precious lumps of sweetness to my I quote from memory but the sub- In uniform he is striking; under the

> "Instinct," I replied "They are won- an idea-one of those inspirations derful that way. But that's nothing, which happen only once a year and then generally turn out to be no good. parts "if you can find some sugar I will take back every mean thing I have through my soul when Agnes poured ever said about you.'

"Madam," I replied, "as a discovere I have Columbus dragging at the end of a long rope. About how many

Agnes did some quick figuring. "I know Mrs. Crebbens takes two lumps, band takes. Perhaps we can get along with five lumps."

Seven Times a Here. "Better make it seven," I said.

was in a generous mood. good-by and began to look for sugar in a sugarless waste. I felt like a "We shall subscribe for daily papers Forty-niner starting for California be sent to each of the butchers in with a coffee pot, a slab of bacon and er districts," said Agnes, "and that's an airgun through a country infested

Agnes gazed at me out of the window and waved her handkerchief. As through potato parings." I said indigmore than once like turning back, but stand them clearly as it is."
if I wavered now I would never hear "But, listen—" he said. the last of it. Agnes had not saked And we sat down to our two dollar | me where I was going to get the sugar

I knew of a one arm cafe about ear, "Say, listen!" three blocks from our house. In that Hoover among the butchers," said my marble topped serving table in the skins on." middle of the room and on the top of the table there was a square cabinet which potatoes are sprayed," he in-

I would order a cup of coffee, walk had been owing it to them for three coffee and the seven to take home in my pocket.

ordered the cup of coffee, took it in my hand and started for the sugar cabinet. says about your potato parer," I broke Then I discovered that it had been rethem, say, two years and six months Then I discovered that it had been removed. It was a fine night for dis- murder, but I can do it if necessary.

"Don't you want some sugar in that take Hoover's name in vain. Good "Sure," I said. "That's what I cam

"How many lumps?" he asked. "Eight." I said, "and leave seven them in the saucer by the side of the house. Only a dollar."
cup. I will use them as I need them."
"Nothing stirring." cup. I will use them as I need them."

coffee and one in the saucer Do you get me, sitting there an parer sells for?" I asked. membered that my wife had said five "A quarter," he said. lumps would be enough. But no, I "Give me one," I said, "and then

very people who should know how to and there wasn't a drop of sugar in finest little caffeine jag that ever wantered have never learned. Prices could the house.

"Not a drop of sugar in finest little caffeine jag that ever wantered about on its own recognizance the Montenegrin Navy, so I took the each reduced ten times a day and they "Not a drop," whiled Agnes. "And among the ant hills and advertising potato parer and dropped it down the would pever know it. But they always I have tried nine groceries. There signs of Long Island. and there wasn't a drop of sugar in finest little caffeine ing that ever wan- the house.

And there wasn't a drop of sugar in finest little caffeine ing that ever wan- the house.

And there wasn't a drop of sugar in finest little caffeine ing that ever wan- the house.

And there wasn't a drop of sugar in finest little caffeine ing that ever wan- the house.

And there wasn't a drop of sugar in finest little caffeine ing that ever wan- the house.

And there wasn't a drop of sugar in finest little caffeine ing that ever wan- the house.

through dinner. But I had a vague destroy the houses of the rich mersense of naving won in my search for chants and foreigners.

"Alvaro Obrasoon." wife when I had come in

It was worth a long illness to prove to her that I was the sugar here of our A thrill of conscious pride swept out the coffee and asked: "How many

lmps," Mrs. Crebbens?" "None at all," replied our guest. "My husband and I always take our coffee straight." I struck the floor and knew

the effect that if I take his medicine were like those of a city of death-or and stay in the house a couple of days I will probably be all right.

December 5: A man came to the

this forenoon. I opened it gingerly and he deftly inserted his foot in the intervening space so I could not close it again. Then he began his lec

said, "which makes the parings so thin "I don't care to read my newspapers

"It is all I can do to under-There is only one thing that will

spoil my whole day and that is to have

"We shall spread the gospel of cafe, as I remembered it, there was a said. "We always cook them with the "Think of the paris green

> "Perhaps it would be as well," I re-He pushed his foot a fittle further into the room and said: "This potato parer is recommended by food savers the country over. They only cost a

"Don't tell me what Herbert Hoover

"Well, if you don't want a parer maybe I can interest you in this inter-

"All right," I said. "Put one in the though it's a crime to do it." "Well, can't you use a child's talking "How much did you say the potato

was the wise guy, I had told her that good day." My wife was out attending a meet.

city, who were subject to the special

groceries, vegetables and fish him. have given the huckster a new standing in the community. No longer are the men who peddle their wares from horse drawn carts looked down on by those who were too dignified to buy from the Itinerant markets when food was plentiful. Just now, when prices are high, there is no such word is dignity in the lexicon of the frugal ousewife; economy is the word which coms large in her mind and it is grow-

The increase in rents and incidenale prices of foodstuffs have increased he burden of those who do business n stores. It is no secret that many a grocer, many a vegetable stand keeper, o make both ends meet. The one big item is rent; if they didn't have the rent to meet every month they could afford to sell their goods at prices

It is in the matter of rent that the saw a huckster's horse which appeared to be suffering from overeating? fire horses; they are present at every now. sale of condemned fire horses held in | But the fact remains that the huckthis city. In fact, some pedlers invest almost as much money in buying ivory

Having no rent to meet the huckster is able to undersell the merchant.

Time was when the huckster had to do the running after the cus-

other foot. essary noise in the streets seems to sombre black clothing in striking con- Mexico took of their preoccupations to have been waived, for the police do not make the hucksters use the muffler One huckster said their immunity wives have to pay high prices as well are lamp at the street corner. Lines as everybody else, and they have told of cavalry loaded rifles resting ready their bluecoat husbands not to bother on their thighs, rode on either side of

At any rate the present day huckhimself by announcing his coming placed alongside of their ears, yelling how many potatoes one can get for 10 cents or how much a head of cabbage will cost. No; you have to arrange your schedule to suit the con-

If you live in a back spartment you have to pay any rent. He can buy a have to have a working arrangement new wagon at a small initial cost, or he with the family in front to be inchangeable mop wringer and gas plate. can buy a second hand wagon and formed of the coming of the huckster. It is a handy thing to have around the have it repaired and painted, and then If the family in front is derelict in formed of the coming of the huckster. make any purchases that day. No more do the hucksters ring the dumb-Hucksters go in for horses which have waiter bells or whistle up the tubes outlived their usefulness in other lines. as they were wont to do in the days of They are particularly fond of cast off old; they have a dignity to sustain

sters are having prosperous times. Women who never before could be into duced to buy from carts are doing so decorate the animals as they pay for now without the least reluctance. The pride which once prevented them from driving a bargain with a huckster just because the next door neighbor was ckster with his low prices just is doing the same thing just now; it's

wives or female companions; wagons the next? Obregon? tions of all kinds. It was a mad ka- who will lead her out of the bondings seldoscope of ever changing colors; of anarchy it is as certain as that day dashing horsemen almost running follows night that Uncle Sam will be down bent women carrying bundles or compelled to wade in as soon as th and ribaid witticisms among the sol- Mexico is temporarily forgotten in the

the group of hostages.

either captors or prisoners. The priests ster is a man of importance. He's marched two and two, and last of them seems clean, but the refuse continues must have been sixty-five years of age him nervously wining the palens of his them any more with their hands hands with a white handkerchief. The red flag of the revolution was carried in the rear.

> man like the rest of us in the noisy he is content to step down and out to the maid employed in this home. cut such a dashing figure? Having continued, and said she had lost one

Mexican Conditions Worse.

not a sufficient leaven of benevolence. Upon hearing which the

overdid the role of tyrant. There was sweeper before throwing it away."

but that he could have won the masses tal resolve that when she wente to to him if he had made the slightest housekeeping she would do the same.